

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Non-Final Office Action of September 11, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 32-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,181,390 to Aizawa ("Aizawa").

Claims 32-42 with independent claims 32 and 37 are pending.

The rejection of claims 32-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Aizawa is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 32 is allowable over the cited reference in that claim 32 recites a combination of elements including, for example "a a clamping part having a snap-fit part that is snap-fitted substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp and integrally extending at an angle from said body". Claim 37 is allowable over the cited reference in that claim 37 recites a combination of elements including, for example "a clamping structure that is integral with, and angularly extends from, said clamp, said clamping structure dimensioned to snap-fit with the electrode substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp". Aizawa does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

The Examiner states that Aizawa has "a clamp (arms 10a, 10b, 8a, 8b) integral with and extending at right angles to the body as well as at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the electrode, which snap-fit over the lamp and the electrode for pressing and securing the lamp and electrode". Further arms 21, 22, 24, and 25 are identified as the first and second arms that are part of the body. The clamping part as identified by the examiner includes arms 10, 10b, 8a, and 8b. It must also include the part of socket terminal 6 that structurally interconnects those arms to form the clamping part. This structure as shown in Fig. 4 is parallel to the body that includes the

arms and clearly does not extend at an angle from the body. Therefore, Aizawa does not disclose the clamping part as recited in claims 32 and 37.

Further, in Aizawa the lamp snaps into the socket terminal in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the lamp. In the claimed invention, the lamp is snap fitted into the clamping part in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lamp. Therefore, Aizawa further does not disclose the clamping part as recited in claims 32 and 37.

Claims 33-36 and 38-42, which depend from independent claims 32 and 37 respectively, are allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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